

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## REPORT

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ESTABLISH MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY;  
APPOINT KOPRIVA MINISTER

WILL EASE WORK OF INTERIOR MINISTRY -- Rude Pravo, No 123, 24 May 50

On 23 May 1950, the cabinet approved a decree which establishes, on the basis of the constitutional law concerning the regulation of organization of public administration, the Ministry of National Security, in accordance with a proposal of Minister of the Interior V. Nosek.

The new ministry will fulfill tasks of national security which formerly were the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior and were handled in Slovakia through the Commission of the Interior.

The Minister of Interior justified the necessity of establishing the new ministry chiefly by the fact that the functions of the Ministry of Interior have grown considerably in recent times. In addition to the continuously growing work of the national committees and the tasks connected with the organization of the state apparatus, the ministry has received other tasks, particularly those connected with the organization of communal enterprises, and at the same time has fulfilled all the demands of national security. The tasks of socialist construction require that independent attention be devoted to the problems of security service and that these problems be solved centrally for the entire nation.

On the recommendation of the Prime Minister, the President appointed Representative Ladislav Kopriva Minister of National Security.

LADISLAV KOPRIVA A COMMUNIST SINCE 1921 -- Rude Pravo, No 123, 24 May 50

Ladislav Kopriva, Minister of National Security, was born on 28 June 1897 in Ivanovice na Hane (Vyskov Okres, Brno Kraj). His father was a joiner and a small farmer, and his mother was an agricultural worker. He graduated from a 2-year trade school. In 1915, he was inducted into the Austro-Hungarian Navy. In January 1919, he joined the Social Democratic

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Party, where he became a functionary of the basic organization. He joined the party's left wing, with which he moved to the Communist Party in 1921, when he began working in Bohemia and Moravia as an employee and functionary of the co-operative movement. He exercised functions in local, okres, and kraj organizations of the Communist Party. In 1928, he was summoned to the cooperative section of the secretariat of the Central Committee of the Party, and at the end of that year he left for the USSR. Following his return in 1929, he participated in the struggle for "Vcela" (Bee) /a workers' consumer cooperative, founded in 1906, taken over by the Communists in 1920/, where he became a member of the board of directors and agent (jednatel). He was the spokesman of the proletarian cooperative opposition in Czechoslovakia.

He was a representative of the Communist Party in the National Assembly from 1935, and was elected a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party at the Seventh Party Congress.

During the Second Republic, when the Communist Party was illegal, he was a member of the small leading group of the Party. In spring 1939, enroute to the Soviet Union, he was arrested, together with Antonin Zapotocky, Dr Jaromir Dolansky, and Augustin Kliment, and from that time until 1945 he was imprisoned in the concentration camp at Dachau. Following his return to Czechoslovakia, he became a member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and worked as the chairman and security referent of the Provincial National Committee in Prague. He participated in building an organization of political prisoners and was president of the SOPVP /Union of Prague Liberated Political Prisoners/. He is president of the Union of Fighters for Freedom.

He was elected representative to the National Assembly in 1948. Following the abolition of the provincial organization, he worked as leader of the cadre section of the secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. He was again elected member of the Presidium of the Central Committee at the Ninth Party Congress.

He was appointed Minister of National Security on 23 May 1950.

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